



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UPDATE: PROJECT CEASEFIRE
KC FELON PLEADS GUILTY
TO ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF FIREARM

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Kansas City, Mo., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to being a felon in possession of a firearm. Today's conviction, Graves said, marks additional progress under Project Ceasefire, the district's ongoing anti-crime initiative.

Larry J. Cunningham, 53, of Kansas City, Mo., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Scott O. Wright this morning to being a felon in possession of a firearm.

By pleading guilty, **Cunningham** admitted that he was in possession of a Ruger 9 mm handgun on Sept. 27, 2003. Under federal law, Graves explained, it is illegal for any felon to be in possession of any firearm or ammunition. **Cunningham** has a 1970 criminal felony conviction for statutory rape, a 1980 criminal felony conviction for simple assault, a 1981 criminal felony conviction for disorderly conduct, a 2003 criminal felony conviction for carrying a concealed weapon and a criminal felony conviction for auto theft.

Cunningham was originally charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm in an indictment returned by a federal grand jury on Oct. 21, 2003.

Cunningham was initially arrested following a routine traffic stop at 63rd Street and Prospect, in Kansas City, on Sept. 27, 2003. At that time, law enforcement officers discovered that **Cunningham** had an outstanding warrant and placed him under arrest. The law enforcement officers then performed an inventory search on **Cunningham's** vehicle, which is when they discovered the handgun.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul S. Becker. It was investigated by the Kansas City, Mo., Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and

Explosives.

Project Ceasefire

Project Ceasefire, launched in October 1999, is a cooperative initiative by federal and local law enforcement and the Kansas City Crime Commission that targets for federal prosecution persons who unlawfully use or possess firearms.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow